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U.S. Serial No.: 10/509,880

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested as Applicants have amended the claims in the manner suggested in the final Office Action.

More particularly all the independent claims namely, 1, 14 and 15 have been amended to include the suggested wording of a, "penetrating conductance sensor replaceably removable from a filter cartridge wall." In addition the Examiner is correct that claim 3 lacked antecedent basis for "the top wall". Claim 3 has been corrected accordingly.

Formal Matters

The Examiner correctly describes the background for the request for an interview and the fact that an in person interview was not possible due to conflicting work schedules.

It appears however the undersigned attorney may have misunderstood the comments of the Examiner during the December 23, 2008 telephone interview. The undersigned believed that the fact that both the filter cartridge and the control unit were separately replaceable distinguished the invention from the prior

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art.

However after receiving the final Office Action it became clear from the Examiner's comment that "the control unit is considered to be replaceable since it may be disposed along with the filter cartridge." A review of the claims demonstrated the word separably replaceable filter cartridge and control unit could be broadly construed as pointed out by the Examiner's comment even though that had not been intended.

As a result the suggested wording, "penetrating conductance sensor replaceably removable from a filter cartridge wall" has been utilized to demonstrate the filter cartridge or the filter control unit having a conductance sensor may be replaced without replacing or discarding both together.

Compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

It is believed good and sufficient reasons have been presented for considering this amendment after final since the meaning of the word "replaceable" was not fully appreciated in the context of the claim. The Applicants meant the control unit is separately replaceably removable from a replaceable filter cartridge instead of the control unit and the filter cartridge being "replaceable" as a unit.

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The Prior Art

As currently amended the claims are believed patentable over the prior art. The prior art does not teach or suggest a control unit having a penetrating conductance sensor that is replaceably removable from a filter cartridge wall. Reconsideration and allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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